

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5996

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGES: PFOR, CGEN, CZ

SUBJECT: EXIT VISA PROBLEMS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: STATE 57375

1. EMBASSY HAS ACTIVE VISA FILES, INCLUDING VISA PETITIONS OR AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT, ON 335 PERSONS WISHING TO JOIN RELATIVES. OF THESE, 93 ARE SINGLE FAMILY MEMBERS AND REMAINDER ARE INCLUDED IN 96 FAMILY GROUPS, FOR TOTAL OF 189 FAMILIES INVOLVED. WITHOUT QUERYING APPLICANTS, WHICH MAY BE EMBARRASSING FOR SOME, WE CANNOT SAY HOW MANY ARE ACTUALLY SEEKING PERMISSION TO LEAVE.

2. CONCERNING SEVEN CASES MENTIONED PARA 4 REFTEL, EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD FOR JURINA, JURINOVA. WE HAVE EUR/EE QUESTIONNAIRES FOR BENESOVA, SEFRANKA AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY FOR ZALEZAKOVA. PETITIONS ARE ON FILE FOR KANCA, KACEROVA AND TWO GROSPICS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO REPRESENTATION AT MFA CONCERNING DIVIDED FAMILIES (PARA 3, 5 REFTEL), EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH SUMMARIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA ABOUT ROGERS-CHNOUPEK DIVIDED FAMILIES LIST AS WELL AS NEW CASES BROUGHT BY EMBASSY TO ITS ATTENTION. CONOFFS CURRENTLY MEET MONTHLY ON CONSULAR MATTERS WITH RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICIALS AND HAVE REMINDED THEM ON EACH OCCASION OF USG INTEREST IN IMMIGRATION TO US BY THOSE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIVIDED FAMILIES LIST. CONOFFS ALSO USE MEETINGS AS OPPOR-

TUNITY TO MAKE CASE-BY-CASE REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OTHER INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO EMIGRATE AND FACING DISTINCT HARD-SHIP. WE APPLY FOLLOWING CRITERIA: ALL INS REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED AT US END; EMIGRATION APPLICATION FILED AND REFUSED BY CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES; SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION BY US CITIZEN OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE, E.G. CONGRESSMAN.

4. HOWEVER, WE HAVE LIMITED THESE CASE-BY-CASE REPRESENTATIONS FOR TIME BEING, GIEEN OUR FEELING THAT CZECHS INDEED EMBARKED ON DEFINING NEW GENERAL POLICY RE TRAVEL ABROAD NOW THAT 1973 AMNESTY PROVISIONS EXPIRED AND THAT THIS WILL AFFECT EMIGRATION. WE HAVE SOUNDED OUT MFA ON NEW POLICY, WHICH CZECHS SAY SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE THIS SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER, AND IT APPEARS LIKELY RESTRICTIONS ON TOURIST TRAVEL TO NORTH AMERICA, WHICH DROPPED SHARPLY LAST HALF CY 1973 (AIRGRAM POUCHED SEPARATELY), WILL BE SOFTENED. ONE MFA OFFICIAL (CERVENKA) HAS ALREADY SAID NEW TRAVEL POLICY WILL IN POSITIVE WAY AFFECT EMIGRATION BY PEOPLE ON LIST; EMBASSY HOLDING OFF SUBMITTING NAMES IN ADDITION TO LIST INDIVIDUALLY OR ON NEW LIST UNTIL WE SEE WHAT NEW RULES ARE.

6. DEPARTMENT CORRECT RE FOUR PEOPLE ON LIST GIVEN PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. TWO HAVE LEFT; TWO HAVE DOCUMENTS READY BUT ARE NOT READY TO TRAVEL DUE ILLNESS. A FIFTH INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT SHE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE PERMISSION SOON FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES.

7. MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY INFORMED US APRIL 3 THAT WE WILL SHORTLY BE INFORMED OF FURTHER POSITIVE ACTION ON LIST.
WORTZEL

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